



Carlsbad Unified School District

6225 El Camino Real • Carlsbad, CA 92009
(760) 331-5000 • (760) 431-6707

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Contact: John A. Roach, Ed.D., District Superintendent
(760) 331-5001; jroach@carlsbadusd.net

SUPERINTENDENT STATEMENT REGARDING THE OCTOBER 8, 2010 SHOOTING INCIDENT AT KELLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Carlsbad, CA ... Shortly after noon on October 8, 2010, a lone gunman entered the campus of Kelly Elementary School and randomly fired shots at students on the playground during lunchtime recess. Two students were injured before the gunman was overtaken by three construction workers, assisted by two neighborhood residents, who detained him until police arrived. The students were air-lifted to Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego; thankfully, their injuries are not life-threatening.

Within three minutes of the shooting, students on the playground were ushered inside the school, which went immediately into lockdown mode. Students and staff remained in classrooms until police, fire and other emergency personnel ascertained that the interior and exterior of the campus was safe, at which time they were reunited with their parents awaiting them at Laguna Riviera Park, adjacent to the school. Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) and American Red Cross staff and volunteers were at the park providing on-site support services as well as water and snacks.

We have much about which to be thankful: first and foremost, the courageous citizens who took bold action to avert what could have become a tragedy. We also are grateful to the Carlsbad Police Department, Carlsbad Fire Department and San Diego County Sheriff Bomb Squad for their immediate and thorough response; the quick and calm response of Kelly staff and students; and the patience of families amid extremely stressful circumstances.

Professional counselors will be at Kelly when school resumes on Monday, helping students, staff and families deal with the residual effects of this near-tragedy. District counselors will be available at all Carlsbad Unified sites to help people handle the anxiety and fear that can result from a traumatic experience.

Our District has rigorous emergency procedures in place to make sure we are prepared for crises that we hope will never occur. Every school regularly practices lockdown drills and other emergency procedures. Our Threat Assessment Team provides training and oversight to schools and staff to promote a safe environment.

Our comprehensive emergency response system was tested on October 8, 2010. We are grateful to everyone for helping to create a positive outcome. As we move forward from this experience, we will rely on many people and programs to ensure a safe and healthy environment for learning; at Kelly and at each of our sites.

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